

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 147

Introduced by Assembly Members Dodd and Gallagher

(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella and Galgiani)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman, Gray, Grove, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Mathis, Quirk, ~~and Salas~~) *Salas, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood*)

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Bates, Beall, Berryhill, Block, Fuller, Gaines, Glazer, Hall, Hertzberg, Hill, Huff, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Leyva, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Moorlach, Morrell, Nguyen, Nielsen, Pan, Pavley, Roth, Runner, Stone, Vidak, Wieckowski, and Wolk)

February 29, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 147, as amended, Dodd. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize and honor the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing March 15, 2016, as National Agriculture Day, and designating March 16, 2016, as California Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, March 16, 2016, is designated as California
2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture’s
3 importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians
4 nourished, and its role in keeping the state’s economy ranked as
5 the eighth largest in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2016 theme of California Agriculture Day is
7 “Golden State on Your Plate” in recognition of the diversity and
8 significance of California agriculture; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
10 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
11 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for
12 approximately 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits,
13 vegetables, and nuts; and

14 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of
15 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the industry;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural community relies on a
18 vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection
19 of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health,
20 the environment, and commerce; and

21 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population
22 engaged in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today
23 provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in
24 1947; and

25 WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers over 300
26 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm
27 cultivation to food science and engineering; and

28 WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in
29 production of agriculture have resulted in a drop in consumer
30 spending on food products from 22 percent of average household
31 disposable income in 1949 to 11 percent today; and

32 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
33 exports, shipping more than \$21 billion of food and agricultural
34 commodities around the world in 2014; and

1 WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks
2 to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production
3 and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing
4 consumer needs and complex world markets; and

5 WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being
6 developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices
7 on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

8 WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to
9 them to purchase foods grown in California and California
10 consumers say that "California grown" is more important to them
11 today than it was in years past. In the last decade, California
12 consumers have increased support of certified farmers' markets,
13 community supported agricultural programs, and farm-to-school
14 programs; and

15 WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital
16 to ensure that California agriculture continues to flourish; and

17 WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of
18 agricultural land by 2050, more than 300,000 acres of which will
19 have been highly productive irrigated cropland. Thus, California
20 should continue to work for conservation to preserve California's
21 agricultural heritage; and

22 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize
23 our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in
24 providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes and honors
28 the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication
29 and productivity by observing March 15, 2016, as National
30 Agriculture Day, and designating Wednesday, March 16, 2016,
31 as California Agriculture Day; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.